

**Ryon, Tom**

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**From:** Cameron, David  
**Sent:** Monday, January 08, 2001 8:19 AM  
**To:** Ryon, Tom; Schweich, Matt  
**Subject:** FW: PRPA/WAPA Projects

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jan\_McKee@fws.gov [mailto:Jan\_McKee@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 03 January, 2001 11:00 AM  
**To:** greystone@greystone-consultants.com  
**Cc:** Donna\_Lakamp@fws.gov  
**Subject:** PRPA/WAPA Projects

To: Tom Ryon and Matt Schweich

From: Jan McKee

USFWS, Colorado Field Office

I received the *Spiranthes diluvialis* survey reports for the above referenced projects and in order to concur with your findings, we need you both to submit letters to our office outlining your qualifications as surveyors for the orchid. The 1992 FWS, Interim Survey Requirements for "*Spiranthes diluvialis*" outline the requirements for qualifications as a surveyor. Qualifying as a surveyor for the orchid will also qualify you both for surveys for the butterfly plant.

In addition, do you have any more detailed descriptions of the habitats surveyed for Platte River Power Authority's proposed transmission line upgrade? I realize that the Draft Environmental Assessment may include that information, but we do not have access to that information at this time and I really need more information to determine presense of potential habitat for the orchid and butterfly plant for this project.

Surveyor qualifications and additional information submitted to our office will need to be in writing. We cannot accept email submittals at this time. Sorry.

If you need more information, please don't hesitate to give me a call at (303) 445-2105.

Thanks,

Jan

01/18/2001



# GREYSTONE®

*Environmental Consultants, Inc.*

January 12, 2001

Jan McKee  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Colorado Field Office  
755 Parfet Street, Suite 361  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215

RE: QUALIFICATIONS OF GREYSTONE BIOLOGIST TO CONDUCT UTE  
LADIES' TRESSES ORCHID SURVEYS (COLORADO BUTTERFLY PLANT

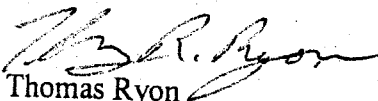
Dear Jan:

Attached are qualifications for Tom Ryon and Matt Schweich to conduct Ute Ladies'-  
tresses orchid and Colorado butterfly plant surveys. I have also included qualifications  
for Sara Davis as she is in training to help with surveys this summer.

I will be sending a letter further explaining the Fort Collins project wetlands in the next  
few days.

If you have any questions, please call me at (303) 850-0930.

Thanks,

  
Thomas Ryon  
Staff Ecologist

Thomas Ryon

## Botany/Threatened and Endangered Species Experience

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Mr. Ryon has conducted a number of rare plant surveys and habitat assessments for vertebrate species along the Colorado Front Range Urban Corridor and elsewhere in the western United States over the last seventeen years. The following list chronicles his qualifications and experience in regards to botany/rare plant surveys especially *Spiranthes diluvialis* and *Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*.

1984 - Graduated from Colorado State University, B.S. Wildlife Biology. Classes in Botany, Plant Classification, Natural Resource Measures, and Rangeland Ecogeography with Dr. Shaw.

1984 - Worked on the Colorado Aspen Project for the U.S. Forest Service. Helped in plant inventory and production plots of aspen understory plant communities. Also, measured bird habitat parameters and noted associated plant species.

1990 - Collected plant tissue of specific plant species for contaminant analysis at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. This was part of a comprehensive monitoring program for ecological risk assessment.

1991 - Developed a plant community map for the Tooele Army Depot, Tooele Utah.

1992 - Conducted rare plant surveys for a baseline biological characterization for the Department of Energy. Under supervision of Dr. F.A. Harrington, conducted orchid surveys and aided in plant inventories. Also, helped in documentation of fork-tipped three awn (*Aristida basiramea*).

1994 - Conducted vegetation and wildlife surveys for the Rocky Flats. Characterized habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse including plant inventories. Reviewed reports of plant surveys at Rocky Flats for the Ute ladies' tresses orchid and the Colorado butterfly plant (ESCO 1994). Watched video for training to do *Spiranthes diluvialis* surveys (Buckner? Pearl Street Business Park population).

1995 - Characterized habitat for the Preble's meadow jumping mouse including plant inventories in five sites in eastern Colorado. Visited the Boulder Turnpike *Spiranthes diluvialis* population during bloom.

1996 - Conducted *Spiranthes diluvialis* survey along Big Dry Creek for Harlan Street Alignment Project. Conducted Preble's mouse habitat characterization at Rocky Flats including plant inventory.

1997 - Graduated from University of Colorado at Denver. M.S. Environmental Science/Ecology

1997 - Conducted rare plant survey at Rocky Flats. Discovered rare plant, Green Bog-orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*) at Rocky Flats with Jody Nelson, Site Botanist. Conducted Preble's mouse habitat characterization at Rocky Flats including plant inventory.

1998 - Visited the Clear Creek *Spiranthes diluvialis* population - destroyed in part by Hwy 93/6 bridge.

1999 - Conducted an ecological site description in Texas for a Natural Resource Damage Mitigation project. Planned and conducted wildlife a survey of the site emphasizing TES species. Used Global Positioning System technology to create a vegetation map of the site.

2000 - Conducted rare plant survey for transmission line project in Larimer County. Observed rare plant, Bell's twinpod (*Physaria bellii*). Reported finding to the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

### Reference

ESCO 1994. Report of Findings: Ute Ladies'-Tresses and Colorado Butterfly Weed Surveys. Prepared for EG&G Rocky Flats, Jefferson County Colorado. Pp. 10 + photos, map.

Botany/Plant Ecology/Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Status (TES) Species Experience

Mr. Schweich has conducted a wide range of botanical investigations, with a particular emphasis on Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Status (TES) plant species. The results of these surveys and ecological investigations, along with other materials, were used by Mr. Schweich as primary references in the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents such as Biological Assessments (BAs), Biological Evaluations (BEs), and the appropriate sections of Environmental Assessments (EAs), Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), Environmental Reports (ERs), Plans of Development (PODs), and project- and species-specific survey reports.

He served as the primary author for an Interagency Conservation Strategy for the Ash Creek Ivesia, *Ivesia paniculata*. Completion of this document involved delineation of known and potential habitat, survey of all previously unsurveyed potential habitat areas, design and implementation of a monitoring program, compilation of existing data, coordination between USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management resource managers, design of protection standards and guidelines, and recommendation of mitigation measures for existing and proposed impacts.

Other TES plant survey and monitoring projects he completed include: a conservation status review of the grassy-slope sedge, *Carex oreocharis*, design and implementation of a monitoring program for the long-haired star tulip, *Calochortus longebarbatus* var. *longebarbatus*; GPS/GIS mapping of all known occurrences of the Warner Mountains bedstraw, *Galium serpticum* ssp. *warnerense*; surveys for the clay-loving buckwheat, *Eriogonum pelinophilum*, determination of potential habitat and survey for the Ute ladies'-tresses orchid, *Spiranthes diluvialis*, and Colorado butterfly plant, *Gaura neomexicana* ssp. *coloradensis*, and survey of timber sale areas, grazing allotments, mining areas, pipeline and powerline corridors, power plant sites, and a wilderness trail system for a variety of sensitive and special interest plants. All surveys included delineation of potential habitat, reporting and mapping of survey results, and plant material collection when appropriate.

Plant and rangeland ecology studies are also a major part of Mr. Schweich's experience. He was responsible for the design, completion, data analysis, and preparation of a technical paper for a two year study on the effects of livestock grazing in riparian areas on herbaceous biomass productivity and plant community species composition. He has extensive experience with rangeland monitoring and ecology. Studies he has participated in include range condition and trend, range readiness, forage utilization and livestock use patterns, and riparian condition (green-line) surveys. He also completed extensive field work, data analysis, and preparation of a technical paper for a five-year study on the effects of prescribed fire on ponderosa pine / antelope bitterbrush vegetation associations.

Ms. Davis has a wide range of botanical experience, with particular emphasis on vegetation mapping and plant species inventories. She has also conducted a wide range of botanical investigations including threatened, endangered, and sensitive status plant species surveys. All surveys include identifying, mapping and photographing of potential habitats and reporting of survey results. Other projects that have contributed to her vegetation background include rare plant mapping in northern Michigan, and rare plant surveys in Arizona, Colorado, and Illinois. Ms. Davis is familiar with orchids and has reviewed photos and reports for *Spiranthes diluvialis*. She hopes to perform *Spiranthes* surveys in the upcoming 2001 field season.

2000  
SPECIAL DELIVERY-CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. LeRoy Carlson  
Colorado State Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services, Colorado Field Office  
P.O. Box 25486 DFC  
Denver, CO 80225-0207

Subject: **Determination of "not likely to adversely affect" Endangered, Threatened or Sensitive Species or Critical Habitats for the Boyd-Valley 115-kV Upgrade Project.**

Dear Mr. Carlson:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) has evaluated the effects of a rebuild and upgrade of a two-mile segment of the Boyd-Valley 115-kilovolt transmission line. The existing wood pole H-frame transmission line connects Platte River Power Authority's (Platte River) Valley and Boyd substations on the southeast side of Loveland, Colorado. The transmission line is owned and operated by Western, but will be rebuilt by Platte River.

In evaluating the effects of the proposed project, Western used a list of threatened and endangered species, which was provided, by your office on November 1, 2000. Western evaluated the effects of the proposed action on the following listed and candidate plant and animal species:

- Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*)
- Black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)
- Black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
- Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)
- Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)
- Colorado butterflyweed (*Gaura neomexicana* spp. *coloradensis*)
- Ute's ladies tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

Based on the findings of the enclosed biological assessment, Western, as the lead Federal agency, has determined that the proposed action is "not likely to adversely affect" any listed or proposed species or critical habitat.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this project please telephone Rodney Jones at (970) 461-7371. We would appreciate receiving your concurrence with our determination.

Sincerely,

Joel K. Bladow  
Regional Manager

Enclosure

cc: (with enclosure)  
Mr. Scott Hoover  
Acting NE Regional Manager  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
317 West Prospect  
Fort Collins, CO 80526

bcc: (without enclosure)  
Mr. Mike Dahl  
Division Manager, Power System Operation  
Platte River Power Authority  
2000 East Horsetooth Road  
Fort Collins, CO 80525-5721

Mr. Larry Keith  
Division Manager, Utility Services  
Greystone  
5213 South Quebec Street  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

M. Barger, A7400, Golden, CO  
J0400  
J0420  
J5000  
J5640

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